

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AGR-20 EB-11 COME-00 COA-02 INT-08

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5675

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EFIS, PE

SUBJ: QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE NINO CURRENT
AND FISHMEAL INDUSTRY

REF: STATE A-4456 OF MAY 22, 1973

1. (INSTITUTO DEL MAR DEL PERU) IMARPE HAS PUBLISHED RESULTS OF APRIL MEETING FISHERIES EXPERTS AND ANALYSIS OF DATA COLLECTED DURING MARCH AND APRIL FISHING. THESE AND OTHER REPORTS WERE COLLECTED BY FAS, FATS AND OILS SPECIALIST BRUCE BAKER WHO MET WITH NUMEROUS INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT FISHERIES REPRESENTATIVES DURING VISIT, MAY 12-18. SUGGEST YOU CONTACT FAS FOR BAKER'S REPORT WHICH DEALS WITH MOST QUESTIONS POSED IN REFAIR. MEANWHILE WILL OBTAIN AND AIRPOUCH ADDITIONAL COPIES IMARPE REPORTS.

2. IN SUMMARY, WATER TEMPERATURE AND CONDITIONS FOR ANCHOVY REPRODUCTION AND GROWTH HAVE NORMALIZED. ANCHOVY STOCK CONTINUES UNUSUALLY LOW PROBABLY DUE REDUCED REPRODUCTION BECAUSE OF ELEVATED OCEAN TEMPERATURE AND LOW WATER FERTILITY PERSISTING MOST OF 1972.

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3. THERE IS MUCH DISAGREEMENT EVEN AMONG SCIENTISTS AS TO SIZE OF FISH STOCKS AND WHEN CURRENT REPRODUCTION WOULD PERMIT REASSUMPTION COMMERCIAL FISHING. THERE ARE ALSO INDICATIONS GOVERNMENT DECISIONS MAY BE BASED MORE ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FACTORS THAN ON SCIENTIFIC ADVICE.

4. SPORADIC FISHING CONTINUING IN EXTREME SOUTH INDICATES POSSIBILITY THAT NORMALIZATION MAY BE PROCEEDING FROM SOUTH TO NORTH, ALTHOUGH EXPERTS UNDERTAIN AS TO REPRODUCTION ALONG NORTHERN COAST OWING VIRTUAL ABSENCE OF ANCHOVIES THUS FAR. SUPPOSEDLY THIS YEAR'S SPAWN WILL REACH MATURITY IN APPROXIMATELY ONE YEAR.

5. EXPERTS GENERALLY FORECAST ONLY LIMITED FISHING REMAINDER 1973. WITH 1.75 MILLION M. T. ALREADY CAUGHT, YEAR'S TOTAL NOT LIKELY SURPASS TWO TO THREE MILLION. THE 1974 CATCH WILL REMAIN BELOW NORMAL, POSSIBLY SEVEN TO EIGHT MILLION M. T.
BELCHER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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